



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Hometown News Release

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## **Union University graduate enlists in Tennessee Army National Guard**

**SPRING HILL, Tenn.** – Kenneth McWilliams, a Spring Hill native, recommitted to serving his state and country by enlisting as a cavalry scout in the Tennessee Army National Guard on June 26.

After a 10-year break in service, Spc. McWilliams, 36, will report to Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, otherwise known as One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, this October.

“Part of me has always wanted to take on the challenge of boot camp and now I get my chance,” said McWilliams. As an ROTC cadet, McWilliams was not required to attend basic training. The former armor officer spent four years in the Virginia National Guard after graduating from the Virginia Military Institute in 2007, the largest ROTC program in the country.

He’ll join Sweetwater’s 269th Military Police Company upon his return from basic.

McWilliams left the Army in 2011 to focus on his education and civilian career. He obtained his Master’s in Business Administration from Union University in 2016.

Within the past year, he became engaged, bought a new home, and experienced success within his career. With the occurrence of these life changes, he decided it was the right time to recommit back to service.

“The urge to put the uniform on has never left,” said McWilliams.

The commitment to serve isn’t just with McWilliams; both his father and step-father served in the Army, each retiring at the rank of lieutenant colonel. His brother is currently serving as a noncommissioned officer and cavalry scout in active duty.

McWilliams’ fiancé, Paulina, has been supportive throughout the process of him re-entering the military.

“Since I met him he had the desire to serve again,” said Pastrana. “Words cannot describe how much I admire my future husband for never giving up on his dream, it’s never too late.”

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Spc. Kenneth McWilliams, a former Armor Officer with the Virginia Army National Guard, enlists in the Tennessee Army National Guard on June 26. He will attend Basic Combat Training on October 18. (Submitted Photo)

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